



Port Community Information Bulletin # 41-02
Marine Safety Office (813) 228-2189
Tampa, Florida

Effective Date: December 10, 2002
Expiration Date: TBD

Passports Shall Not Be Used To Meet Coast Guard Identification Requirements

The Captain of the Port Tampa, Florida would like to remind vessel masters, owners/operators, agents and security personnel of the importance of good vessel security. In a recent incident in Jacksonville, FL a crewmember was allowed to take possession of his passport to go ashore and did not return to the vessel. This was not related to a terrorist act, but it highlights a possible weakness in port security.

Code of Federal Regulations Title 8, subpart 252.1(d) and (e) list specific requirements and conditions that must be met before INS grants a crewmember permission to go ashore. Foreign crewmembers must have in their possession a valid shore pass (INS form I-95) and proper photo identification at all times when ashore in the United States. Proper photo identification or Maritime Credentials must be carried in accordance with the clarification of regulation 33 CFR parts 6 and 125 issued under Federal Register dated August 7, 2002, Vol. 67, No. 152 page 51082. The master shall keep all passports on board the vessel in a secure location. Passports shall not be carried ashore to meet Coast Guard identification requirements. They must remain aboard in the custody of the master at all times.

Vessel masters, owners/operators and agents shall adhere to all security requirements while in the port to prevent disruption to vessel and port operations caused by an actual or potential security violation.

Questions or concerns regarding this bulletin should be directed to LT Pennant at (813) 228-2189 ext. 152.

J. M. FARLEY
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port